

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals Upon Current Topics—Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

NAPOLEON AND HIS PARLIAMENT.

From the N. Y. Times. The telegraph brings us a summary of the concessions which the Emperor of France proposes to make to his Parliament on his approaching fête day, the 16th of August. Any attempt to appreciate the import of these concessions, before we have the official text, would be premature, but we may reasonably assume that the Legislature of France is henceforth to take a more prominent part in the conduct of the imperial government than it has done heretofore under the Napoleonic dynasty.

The right to initiate measures, which of course involves a right to discuss them, confers a leverage upon public opinion of the greatest importance. Hitherto it has been impossible to get any question before the Chamber without the permission of the Ministers, and, as a natural consequence, at the moment when the Deputies were most anxious to discuss the policy of the administration, and when in their opinion great results might have attended a discussion, the subject would be withheld or withdrawn.

This species of log-rolling has been frequently resorted to in times of difficulty, and we can only account for the Emperor's relinquishing so important a check upon the Legislative Body upon the supposition that he feels himself strong enough now to defy the utmost abuse of the privilege in question.

The publicity of the Senatorial sittings is of less consequence than its appears. Though containing many very able and eloquent men, it is in no sense either a representative or a deliberative assembly. It is popularly termed *L'Assemblée des Invalides*, so frequently have its doors opened to receive crippled and maimed politicians, who, for one reason or another, it was desirable to place in dignified retirement. Now that their deliberations are to be conducted in the presence of the nation, it is to be presumed, however, that they will acquire some additional importance.

But the most significant of all the Imperial concessions is thus stated by the telegram:—"No amendment to a law is to be adopted unless it has been previously referred to a committee, charged with the duty of examining the project, and of communicating it to the Government. If the latter does not accept it, the Council of State will advise the Corps, which will then pronounce definitely on the subject."

This, if stated correctly, which we doubt, gives the Corps Legislatif larger powers of legislation than are possessed by our Congress. That body requires a two-thirds vote to pass a law which has been vetoed by the Executive. A majority of the French Legislature, it would seem from this report, will be competent to enact a law, in defiance of the Emperor, under its new Constitution.

The provision is regard to the treaty-making power is more remarkable for what it does not than for what it does concede. "Modifications of the tariff and postal service by international treaties are to be made obligatory only by laws enacted for that purpose."

The power of treating for war and peace, of negotiating for territory and of forming political alliances, offensive and defensive, is left unimpaired, though of late years the exercise of none of the Emperor's prerogatives has been more bitterly denounced than this.

We do not feel much confidence in the accuracy of the analysis of the senatus consultum which reached us on Tuesday, the very phraseology of which is of its essence, but if it is reported with substantial correctness, it is certain that the Emperor's concessions are not illiberal, however far they may come short of satisfying the opposition, whose hostility began with the empire, and with the empire only will be likely to end.

KING NAPOLEON.

From the N. Y. Tribune. There is a standing menace in the Spanish situation that our west coast may be at any moment realized. The omens are ominous. It is not that the absconding Don Carlos is now to be feared, for the Prince of Asturias has succeeded him as the bugbear of the Regency; it is not because Serrano and Prim are less equal to the situation than any other Spaniards would be—that we have no serious fears for the perpetuity of the Regency. We learn nothing from what is told us of the local distractions of Spain, owing to Carlists, Isabelists, churchmen, and bandits, that has half so much of the nature of a revolution as the recent letter, or we might say manifesto, of the Captain-General of Madrid. This officer knocks with stormy emphasis at the door of the Regency, and with blows loud enough to waken any ministry. He charges that after ten months since the revolution began, anarchy and immorality are greater than ever, and demands, in virtue of the constitutional proclamation of monarchy, the immediate choice of a king. Who is the Captain-General's king, and who is General Prim's king, who is Admiral Topete's king, and who is General Lersundi's king, would be questions quite to the point. Spain is distracted to answer the doubts of her statesmen as to the monarchy, and her gipsy blood is not slow to manifest its riotous fire. A political problem to Spain means discord and pronouncements, when a king is actually called for, we may be sure that rebellion is not too far distant to enforce the demand.

A king is wanted. One good enough to be applied to the healing of the old wound caused by the attempt to tear out the old wood of Bourbon by the roots, and still not too good for the daily needs of a class of men like Prim and Riquelme, and withal not too far off for a tractable class of Republicans, would be preferred. Montpensier, Ferdinand, Henri, Alfonso, Genoa, Aosta, are the old stock of candidates—none of them so lively an aspiration as to take the country by storm. But General Prim is not believed to have been silent so long upon the vexed question of monarchy without an object very well defined to his own view. It is long since he thought well of Ferdinand, and he has never thought well of Montpensier. These were the two most plausible candidates for the crown, but neither of them was acceptable to the king-maker.

What next? The latest rumor is startling. It is said that General Prim and Senor Oloza, once the astute Premier of Isabella, and Minister at the Court of France, have agreed to offer the throne to Prince Napoleon. Every one knows that the Prince is an extraordinary man. He has written essays to show that Napoleon Bonaparte intended that France should become democratic; he made a great speech for reform; he counseled against the Mexican expedition, and was the valued adviser of Cavour; he foresaw the last crisis of Europe, and predicted the present situation in France. With the sensuous tastes and habits of a prince, he has the ideas of a democrat and the watchfulness of events which characterize the Napoleon family in history.

It would be a great novelty to find a Bonaparte on the throne of the people who a greater Bonaparte endeavored to subject. But when General Prim goes to Vichy, as it is announced he will, he may have a chance of discussing, with some factor or proxy of his old acquaintance Napoleon, this strange but highly suggestive topic. A liberal, intellectual Bonaparte on the throne might solve every difficulty of a people who have seldom had brains at their very head, or masterful force in their administrations.

GREELEY'S LAST.

From the N. Y. World. H. G. has been on what he, no doubt with entire accuracy, calls a "hurried journey" through Virginia—which is to say that he "passed and repassed along her central line of railway"—and straightway, with exquisite modesty, roundly lectures on their absurd style of farming those Virginians who cultivate crops whereof H. G. himself knows nothing at all. He candidly confesses he never saw any other part of Virginia before, save the outskirts and the capital, and yet after "this hurried journey" does not scruple to abuse men who have been reared on that soil and wrought with it all their lives. Nothing could more aptly typify that swollen self-importance and busy meddling which make the life of radicalism than this. To instruct the trained soldier in his ramparts and ravellins, the divine in his exegesis, the lawyer in his law, the plauter at his plough—these are the pet devices and manifestations, the Heaven-born mission, as it were, of those prying, childish, unmanly philanthropists and sages that have descended as locusts on these unhappy latter times, and, by their assiduous tearing down of everything in order to build it up better than the Lord made it in the beginning, have plunged us into Cimberian darkness and no end of uncertainty, tribulation, and sorrow. A man takes a hurried railway trip through a great State, and forthwith rushes off home to inflite two mortal columns in rebuke of the entire agricultural system of that State! What difference is it that man's name is Horace Greeley or John Jones, the thing is an absurdity.

But H. G. used his eyes. Very well, then, let him tell what he saw, and so far his lucubrations may have value; but it is a shameful thing in a public leader, and yet a thing inherent in radicalism, to generalize instances into rules, to make one individual deed of violence the habit of a whole people, to declare one scurvy farm the type of all farms in a whole State. This is what H. G. does, and, therefore, is detestably wishy-washy when he does it. When he tells us in these two columns that "I traversed miles of superb white and black oak, where nearly half the trees would square two feet, making admirable ship-timber;" and that on each of the three (out of the many) crests (of iron ore) I visited, there were millions of tons ready to be shovelled up and carted off like any sea-side bank of pebbles. It is said to be pure, yielding 50 to 70 per cent, of metal of excellent quality;" and that "there are mineral properties now to be bought in Virginia for prices which will be quadrupled in ten years though nothing be done to develop them; while, if they are opened and worked with the requisite knowledge and capital, the value of some will be increased a hundred-fold." When he says these and other things of the kind, there is room for belief—the man is telling what he saw; but when it comes to vague humbug in the shape of teaching a tobacco-planter how to plant his crop, H. G., is H. G., and there is nothing more to be said about it. To prate and to intermeddle is of the essence of radicalism, always was, and always will be.

CHURCH AND STATE.

From the N. Y. Tribune. We hope there is truth in a late report from Rome that, in the fitting up of the great hall wherein the Ecumenical Council is to be held by the prelates of the Roman Catholic Church, no seats have been assigned to the ambassadors of the Catholic powers. It is not often our privilege to admire the doings of the Papacy; but, if it has been decided to "render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's"—or rather to let Caesar take care of himself—that is a righteous and wholesome decision, whereof the wisdom will soon be apparent. The more cultivated, intelligent classes throughout the civilized world are substantially united in demanding that the Church and the State shall each be independent of the other, each minding its own business and leaving the other to do the same. Let the Church admonish, discipline, excommunicate, as it shall see fit; let the State do its best to dispense justice and repress wrong-doing; let neither intermeddle with the peculiar province of the other. It will give us great pleasure to be assured that Rome concurs in this appointment and segregation of duties.

And why should she not? "The world is not her friend, nor the world's law." She is not to-day in hearty accord with any of the traditionally great Catholic powers—France, Austria, Spain; Italy—we mean the State—is at odds with her; even little Bavaria lifts up the heel against her; feeble but "Most Faithful" Portugal is her only hearty supporter. There are probably 100,000,000 Catholics in Europe, yet there is no longer a single cordially, unreservedly Catholic State of any weight in the balance of power. If the Papacy is ever to get loose from political alliances, now is clearly her time. Russia has refused her prelates liberty to attend the council. This seems to us an act of tyranny wholly without excuse. The Czar has a few millions of Catholic subjects; they are not to-day alienated from him and drawn away closely to Rome by his arbitrary, high-handed exercise of power. Hasten thy happy day when Rome only, but every church, every hierarchy, shall perceive and affirm the expediency of a divorce of Church and State.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND FREE TRADE.

From the N. Y. World. The Times makes the extraordinary avowal that the Democratic party makes free trade no part of its platform—from which we judge that it has not heard of the Democratic Conventions in Maine or Ohio—and bases it on this, that they venture no further than "talk about reducing the burdens on industry and revising and amending the system of taxation."

Now, this reduction of the burdens on industry is the very thing desired by a great number of people who don't know, or at least couldn't prove, as any free trader can, that our protective tariff is one of the greatest and worst possible of all the burdens on our industry. Therefore that "talk" will be kept up by Democrats. But, in the next place, our home industries are no longer burdened directly with a tax. The only internal tax on all classes of merchandise is the 82 per thousand tax on sales, whether of home manufactures or of imported goods. So that one chief feasible way of reducing burdens on industry is by reducing the tariff; and the very thing alleged by the Times as a proof that the Democratic party is

not a free-trade party is proof that they are. Reduction of the burdens on industry means reduction of the tariff, and that "marshals us the way we go."

But has the Times ever compared the tariffs of Democratic administrations and ones with those of its opponents? Here they are summarized:— Democratic, 1837 to 1842, average tariff, 29 per cent. Whig, 1842 to 1846, average tariff, 35 per cent. Democratic, 1846 to 1850, average tariff, 24 per cent. Whig, 1850 to 1855, average tariff, 26 per cent. Democratic, 1857 to 1861, average tariff, 19 per cent. Republican, 1862 to 1864, average tariff, 42 per cent. Republican, 1864 to 1869, average tariff, 48 per cent. The Democratic party will stand by its old free-trade landmarks.

NAPOLEON AND HIS REFORMS.

From the N. Y. Tribune. The reforms contemplated by Napoleon are now so far known to us that we can speak of them with some degree of intelligence. The draught of the *Senatus Consultum* has been made public. Without going into details, we may say at once that Napoleon has accepted, as nearly as possible, the English constitution as the pattern of his new government. If the outlines furnished us are correct, the only difference between the new French Government and the Government of Great Britain consists in the fact that the Emperor intends to be his own Prime Minister. This is in perfect harmony with all that we have said on this subject. The Emperor, we have always said, would never let go the reins. The very thing he thinks is a great mistake. The beauty of the English system is that the monarch can never, except by sheer folly, take any part in a political conflict. The position which Napoleon reserves for himself will bring him into perpetual conflict with the Corps Legislatif and the Senate. It will not be wonderful if, after a short session, we should find the houses in collision with other, and one or both in collision with the Emperor. In such circumstances the Emperor will have no choice but to appeal to the people. He has now, by conceding so much, fully recognized the power that made him. He cannot go back without making a direct appeal to the army. Is it impossible that on the occasion of the first appeal to the people the people should go against the Emperor? In France the moneyed class rule as they rule all the world over. If the moneyed classes go against the Emperor, universal suffrage will not save him. We repeat but some such illustration to convince the world that universal suffrage is a mockery, a delusion, and a snare.

IS WEALTH A DISQUALIFICATION FOR OFFICE?

From the N. Y. Tribune. To the politics of Judge Paeker (Democratic candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania) many people are conscientiously opposed, but that man must be a soulless partisan who would vote against him for no other reason than because he is a rich man. The Judge is reputed to be worth \$20,000,000, and it is not denied that he made the money by his industry and talents and in honest ways; but the objection to him is, that a man with so much means must have bought his nomination, and will use his wealth to carry his election, and that all this would be a dreadful scandal to American politics. It strikes us that Judge Paeker's opponents have suddenly become very sensitive on the corrupting influence of dollars in electioneering, and that it would have been better for the country had they reached the same virtuous opinions long ago. If it is true that this rich candidate purchased his nomination, and is going to buy his way through, he deserves defeat; but no proof having been offered to support these assertions, we have no right to believe them. Judge Paeker's wealth is not the thing for which he should be elected Governor of Pennsylvania; and it also constitutes no reason why he should not be. Its possession implies some valuable qualities at least in him, such as shrewdness, foresight, knowledge of finance, energy and thrift; and there are so many public men nowadays comparatively destitute of those gifts that it might not be a bad experiment to make him Governor just to test the novelty of it. At a time when all respectable citizens are deploring the absence of practical and successful business men from politics, it seems out of place to be fighting a candidate for no better reason than because he has had the brains to make and keep \$20,000,000.

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CAPE MAY—ADOLPH PROSKAUER, OF DORRE, Restaurant, Café, and hotel on Esplanade, corner of WASHINGTON and JACKSON Streets, Cape May. 6 25 30

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SHERMAN HOUSE, CAPE MAY, N. J., NOW OPEN—Large, airy, and communicating rooms. Spring Beds. Terms, \$15 to \$18 per week. 6 25 30 OLDFIELD & CO., Proprietors.

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